

Safety



A
Joyful
Holiday
Season



Holiday HAZARDS

- **Fire**
- **Electrical**
- **Gifts**
- **Pets**
- **Slip and Falls**
- **Vehicles**
- **Crime prevention**



Holiday Hazards

- Home fires and electrocutions nearly double during December
- 130,000 home fires happen over the holiday
- Christmas trees alone account for 2,000 fires



Holiday Hazards

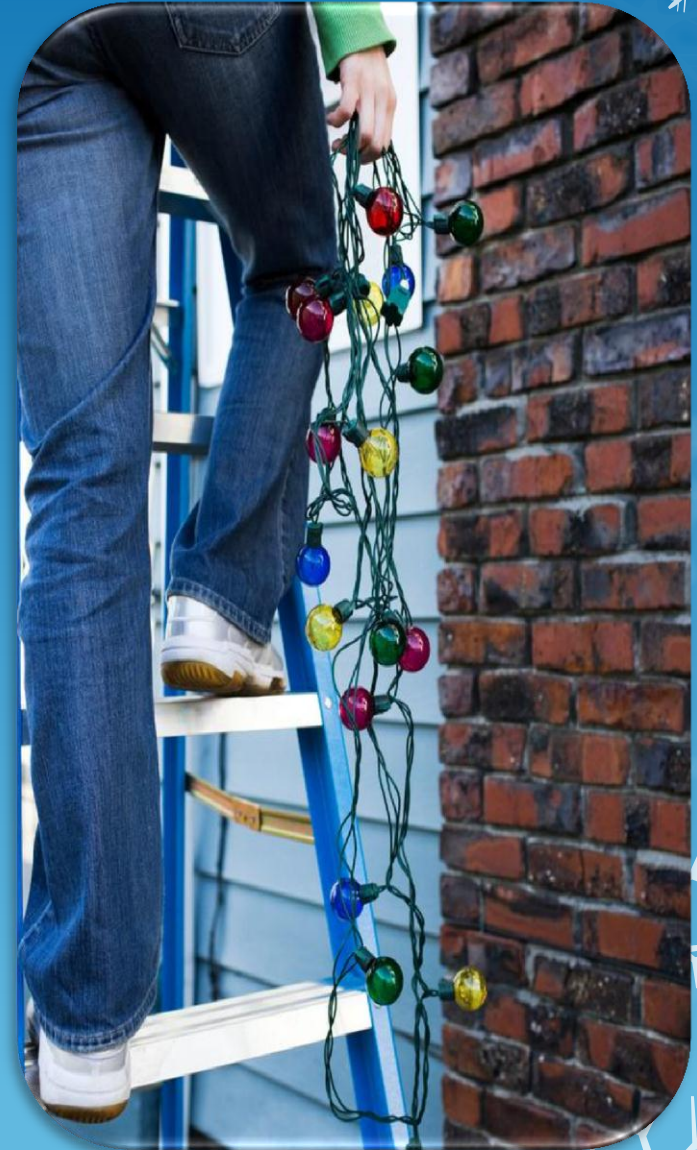


- Roughly 10,000 people are treated for falls, cuts, shocks and burns from putting up decorations.
- To hang decorations on your house, use a ladder extending a minimum of three feet over the roofline or working area. Ladders should be on level, firm ground, with leg levelers added if you're on an incline. A ladder also should be able to carry both your weight and any objects you're hauling.

Photo and text:

16 Tips to Avoid a Holiday Decorating Disaster This Season

<http://www.hgtv.com/decorating-basics/16-tips-to-avoid-a-holiday-decorating-disaster-this-season/pictures/index.html>



Christmas Tree Safety

- Check for freshness (needles should not fall off easily)
- Keep trees away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, vents and radiators
- Select best location...out of household traffic
- Select appropriately sized tree stand
- Check light strings for worn wires
- Consider children and pets when placing tree, decorations, lights and ornaments
- Water daily



Christmas Tree Safety

- Cut the base of the tree so that it can absorb water
- Trim lower branches (eye hazard, easier to water daily)
- Shake the tree outside to free loose needles and old nests
- Consider low wattage lights (big bulbs get hot)
- Fill the tree water daily
- Keep area free of fallen needles



Christmas Tree Safety



**When purchasing an artificial tree,
look for the label "Fire Resistant."**

Candle Safety

- There are 14,000 candle-related fires each year, resulting in 170 deaths
- Keep away from tree, other evergreens, decorations, curtains and furniture
- Extinguish candles before you go to bed, leave the room or home
- Consider children and pets for placement



Electrical “Lights”

- Check for cracked sockets, bare wires
- Use no more than recommended size / sets of lights per outlet and extension cord
- If an extension cord is a must select one with a built in circuit breaker (don't cover with tree skirt)
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the home
- Consider low wattage LED (big bulbs get hot)

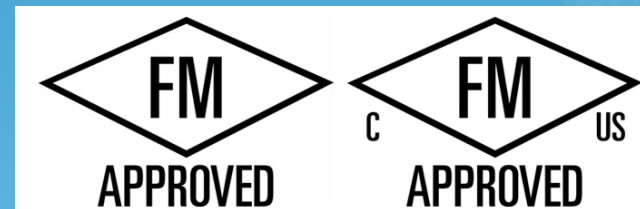
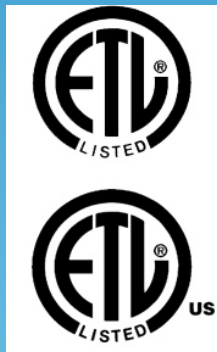
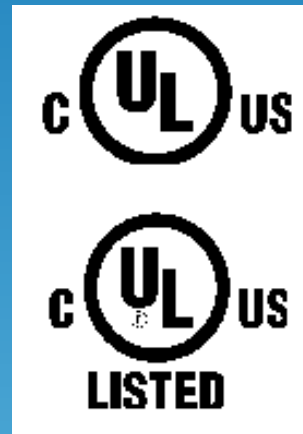


Avoid Counterfeit Electrical Products

- Be cautious when purchasing Holiday decorations and gifts
- Avoid no-name electrical items or products sold at “deep discount stores”
- Check to see if the packaging contains contact information for the manufacturer
- Look for agency tested and approved product labeling (see next slide)



Common Listing Marks for Electrical Products



Gift Safety

- Be extra careful selecting toys for children under the age of three (loose parts, sharp edges, choke hazards, painted, packing materials)
- Check instructions for warnings that identify any hazards
- Buy toys from a recognized retail outlet



Don't forget the batteries....

Toy Safety



U.S. Public Interest Research Group Report:

- Captain America Soft Shield had 29 times the legal limit of lead. A package of toy jewelry rings tested positive for lead twice the legal limit.
- Small parts that could pose a choking risk were found in six toys that did not carry the necessary warning labels for children. PIRG said three toys were too loud and exceeded federal limits on decibels: Leap Frog phones for toddlers — the Chat & Count phone and the Lil' Phone Pal — and the Fisher Price Laugh & Learn remote.

The "Trouble in Toyland" report can be found at
<http://www.uspirgedfund.org/reports/usf/trouble-toyland-2013>

Pet Safety

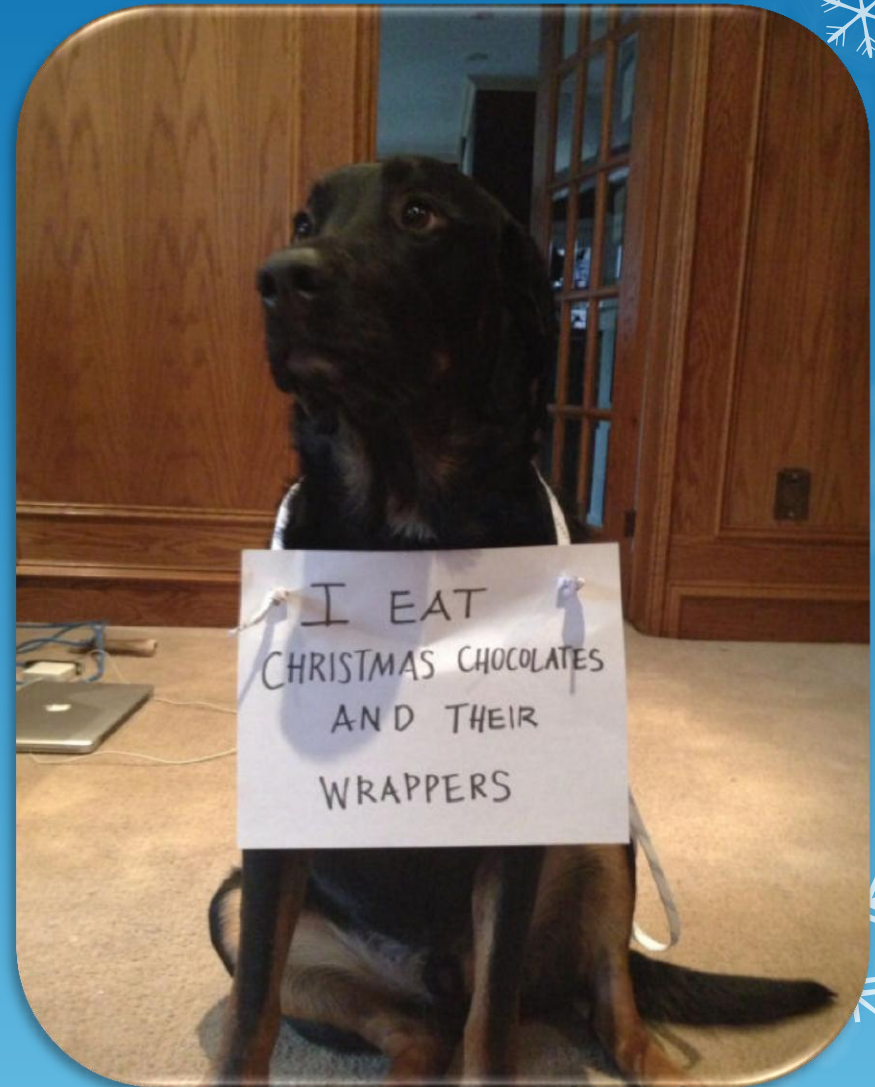
- Tinsel should be out of pet's reach
- Do not put lights on the tree's lower branches
- Keep floor free and clear of pine needles
- Mistletoe, and poinsettia plants are poisonous to dogs or cats



Pet Safety

**Ounces of chocolate
deadly to a 20lb dog:**

- Milk chocolate: 20
- Baker's chocolate: 2
- Semisweet chocolate: 6



Winter Slip hazard



- Be alert for ice-covered areas
- Wear boots or shoes with grip soles
- Don't walk with your hands in your pockets
- Curl your toes and walk as flat-footed as possible
- Use available hand rails
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages
- Keep walks and stairs shoveled, apply snow melt products when necessary



Winter Vehicle Safety

- Road Trip Items: cell phone, shovel, blanket, kitty litter, jumper cables, warm clothes, snow scraper, flares, flashlight, food and water
- Check anti-freeze and windshield wiper fluid
- Warm-up your car prior to use
- Use parking brakes only when necessary in freezing temperature, if parking brakes freeze:
 - Start vehicle
 - Release break handle repeatedly
 - Allow vehicle to warm
 - Back vehicle a short distance
 - Attempt to release brake again



Winter Vehicle Safety

- **Remove all snow/ice from windows and head/tail lights**
- **Replacing Wiper Blades Regularly Saves Lives!**

Ninety percent of your driving decisions are based on a clear, unobstructed view of the road



Winter Vehicle Safety

- Freezing temperatures make the rubber in your wiper blades hard and brittle
- Replace your wiper blades every 6 months or 6,000 miles
- Park with blades in position → indicated or allow defroster to thaw, keeps from burning out wiper motor or damaging blades frozen to window



If You Become Stranded


- Hang a bright cloth from your antenna
- Start engine/run heater every 10 min
(keep exhaust pipe clear)
- Stay with vehicle
- Huddle together
- Use Cell phone
- Use flares



Holiday Crime



Theft rates increase during the Holiday season

- Always make sure you know where you're parked/have keys in your hand
 - Be sure you have a friend or relative come along when shopping at night
 - Carry minimal cash
 - Avoid overloading yourself with packages
 - Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home
 - Don't leave packages in sight in your car
 - Stay alert to your surroundings
 - Leave a light on at home.....
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Have **a** **Safe** and **Happy**

Christmas

Hanukkah

Kwanzaa